

Annex for Franco-Swiss projects

Lead Agency Procedure (FNS)

Generic Call for Proposals 2024

Important

1. Franco-Swiss projects shall only be evaluated by SNSF Agency, according its own terms, through its « l'encouragement de projets». Full information available at the following address: [Encouragement de projets \(snf.ch\)](https://www.snf.ch/encouragement-de-projets)
2. This document sets out detailed rules for the submission and funding procedures applicable to French teams working on Franco-Swiss projects.
3. It is essential to carefully read [work programme 2024, the generic call for proposals \(AAPG\) 2024, the AAPG 2024 guide](#), the rules relating to ANR funding allocation procedures (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) and all of this document before submitting research project proposals.
4. In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present annex shall prevail

ANR Contact Information:

aapg.science@anr.fr: questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal

aapg.adfi@anr.fr: questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

aapg.si@anr.fr: difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

FNS Contact Information:

Humanities and Social Sciences : Paul Pignat: paul.pignat@snf.ch

Mathematics and Engineering sciences: Julien Leuthold: julien.leuthold@snf.ch

Biology and Medicine: Sabrina Engesser sabrina.engesser@snf.ch

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH SWITZERLAND

By developing bilateral agreements with foreign funding agencies, ANR enables researchers to initiate or intensify their collaborations, as part of its plans to foster and give rise to outstanding teams in Europe and throughout the world.

The aim is to fund innovative bi-national projects **that clearly stand out** from on-going national projects, demonstrating great synergy between each country's teams and real integration of joint research.

In order to simplify and streamline working arrangements, create research funding without borders and contribute to building out the European Research Area (ERA), ANR (*Agence Nationale de la Recherche*) and SNSF (*Swiss National Science Foundation*) have decided to forge a partnership.

The "Lead Agency" procedure has been continued in 2024 for the selection of Franco-Swiss PRCI ("International Collaborative Research Projects") projects. In this context, a joint project prepared by both countries' teams is evaluated by a single agency, the "Lead Agency", which manages projects' evaluation and selection. Transnational projects compete with the national projects of the Agency conducting the evaluation. The partner agency has access to all information regarding the projects. Each agency funds its respective national¹ teams according to its own procedures.

The two agencies take turns yearly handling the submission, evaluation and selection of projects according to its own procedures.

For 2024, **the submission and evaluation of project proposals will be handled by SNSF**. The scientific coordinator and other partners of the French part must nevertheless provide ANR with certain administrative information in accordance with procedures described in this Annex.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and SNSF is to support projects in which there is genuine² collaboration between Franco-Swiss partners. Partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific inputs of each country and the added value of the European cooperation. Insofar as possible, the French and foreign partners' projects must start and finish on the same dates.

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

All research fields funded by ANR and SNSF.

¹ A French team is a partner with an institution or a branch in France.

² Jointly defined objectives, sharing of skills and tasks, sharing of risks and results

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The French and Swiss partners will prepare a joint scientific project. **Each country's teams must designate a national scientific coordinator.**

SNSF is in charge of submission and evaluation for both countries.

Project proposals must be submitted by Swiss coordinators to SNSF [SNF Portal](#) respecting the format and the details of its programmes for «l'instrument d'encouragement ».

Applicants must absolutely read over the information available on the SNSF's website:

<https://www.snf.ch/fr/Shcb21B7T7hmJBwM/encouragement/projets/lead-agency-procedure>

The deadline for the submission of applications to the SNSF is **1 April 2024, 5PM.**

French partners:

No registration of intention to submit a project is required by ANR.

However, for administrative reasons, although the submission and evaluation are conducted by the foreign agency, the French participants must submit their proposals to the ANR via the ANR submission site:

- **The same scientific project proposal as that submitted to SNSF, in the same format.**
Note, the acronym and title of the project provided to each agency must be the same.

- **The administrative and funding information** linked to **both** French and foreign partners:
 - o **The detailed** information is expected from the French partners. The French coordinator has to appear as **scientific coordinator** on the ANR submission website
 - o The **minimum**³ information is expected concerning foreign partners : the foreign coordinator (**country referent**)⁴, the name of the Institute⁵, its category (private / public), and the information concerning, requested funding by foreign partners to their national agency

- **A scientific panel** responsible for the scientific monitoring of the project in case of success (description of the scientific panels is available in the AAPG 2024 text). **Please note:** this choice **cannot be changed** once the closing date and time has passed.

The French coordinator is subject to the rules (in particular of eligibility) to which all national scientific coordinators of the 2024 Generic call for proposals must comply (see *AAPG 2024 Guide*, § B.5.2. *Eligibility of full proposals*).

³ Simplified entry

⁴ The information is essential for the data crosschecking with the SNSF

⁵ Partner as a legal entity

The deadline for submitting this information to the ANR is **after the Swiss submission deadline, April 2nd, 5 p.m. (Paris time)**. Projects proposals must be submitted to both agencies at due time. Those submitted to only one agency will be rejected.

The submission website will open on the **February 2nd, 2024** the link will be indicated on the ANR website, [on the generic 2024 call for proposals page](#).

4. ELIGIBILITY

Each agency decides on projects' eligibility according to its own rules.

ANR verifies the eligibility of the full proposals, taking into account the criteria set out in the AAPG Guide § B.5.2, and detailed below :

- The provisional project proposal duration must be the same for the two country partners.

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them. The FNS rules can be found at the following address: [Encouragement de projets \(snf.ch\)](#)

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁶

Country (agency)	Submission to the foreign agency	Submission to the ANR	Duration	Participation of a company ⁷	Other
Switzerland (SNSF)	Yes	Copy of the project proposal	24,30,36,42,48	ANR eligible SNSF not eligible	

To be eligible, proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria of the two funding agencies.

5. EVALUATION

Projects shall only be evaluated by SNSF in accordance with its own rules.

The SNSF will propose a list of projects to be funded by ANR.

The two agencies then jointly validate the list of projects to be funded.

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams according to its own rules. ANR's funding regulations are available at: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>

⁶ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency)

⁷ Cf. definition in ANR's Regulations for allocating grants

7. CALENDAR

- Proposal submissions on the SNSF website: **April 1st 2024, 5PM**
- Closure for submission proposals on the ANR website: **April 2nd 2024, 5 PM** (Paris time), **no registration**
- Joint decision and publication of results: October 2024 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2024 – January 2025 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.